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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the  
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY

PCT

To:

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NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF  
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY  
EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Rule 71.1)

Date of mailing  
(day/month/year)

18.11.03

Applicant's or agent's file reference

R03155 PCT

IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION

International application No.  
PCT/JP 03/ 09929

International filing date (day/month/year)  
05.08.03

Priority date (day/month/year)  
06.08.02

Applicant

RICOH COMPANY, LTD.

1. The applicant is hereby notified that this International Preliminary Examining Authority transmits herewith the international preliminary examination report and its annexes, if any, established on the international application.
2. A copy of the report and its annexes, if any, is being transmitted to the International Bureau for communication to all the elected Offices.
3. Where required by any of the elected Offices, the International Bureau will prepare an English translation of the report (but not of any annexes) and will transmit such translation to those Offices.
4. REMINDER

The applicant must enter the national phase before each elected Office by performing certain acts (filing translations and paying national fees) within 30 months from the priority date (or later in some Offices) (Article 39(1)) (see also the reminder sent by the International Bureau with Form PCT/IB/301).

Where a translation of the international application must be furnished to an elected Office, that translation must contain a translation of any annexes to the international preliminary examination report. It is the applicant's responsibility to prepare and furnish such translation directly to each elected Office concerned.

For further details on the applicable time limits and requirements of the elected Offices, see Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide.

Name and mailing address of the IPEA/

Japan Patent Office

3-4-3, Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8915, Japan

Authorized officer

Commissioner of  
the Patent Office

Telephone No. +81-3-3581-1101 Ext. 3221

2P 9606

## ATTENTIONS

### 1. Demand for copy of documents

Copy of the documents described in the international preliminary examination report and not described in the international search report.

An applicant can request the copy of these cited documents to the Japan Patent Office, however, Japan Patent Information Organization also services sales of the copy of these cited documents. Those who request copying of the cited documents should pay attention to the following points.

#### [Application Method]

(1) As for Patent (Utility Model, Design) Gazette, the following points shall be defined clearly.

- Types of patent, utility model, and design
- Fiscal year and number of publication of application or publication of unexamined application (or patent number, registration number)
- Necessary number of paper sheets

(2) As for documents except for the gazette, the following points are required attention.

- Be sure to attach the copy of the international preliminary examination report (which shall be returned).

#### [Application and Reference]

〒135-0016

4-1-7 Toyo Koto-ku, Tokyo  
Sato Daiya Building  
Foundation of Japan Patent Information Organization  
Information Processing Department  
Copy Service section  
TEL: 03-3508-2313

Note) The period for requesting the copy of the documents to Japanese Patent Office is set to 7 years from the international application date.

2. It is necessary to submit the copy of international application (except for cases of already transmitted from the International Bureau) and its prescribed translation, and to pay the national fee. Respective countries set different periods so as to be required attention. (See Treaty Article 22, Article 39, and Article 64 (2) (a) (ii))

**PATENT COOPERATION TREATY**  
**PCT**  
**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT**

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference <b>R03155 PCT</b>	<b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b> See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. <b>PCT/JP03/ 09929</b>	International filing date (day/month/year) <b>05.08.03</b>	Priority date (day/month/year) <b>06.08.02</b>
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC <b>Int.Cl? B41J 2/045, 2/055, 2/16</b>		
Applicant <b>RICOH COMPANY, LTD.</b>		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 3 sheets, including this cover sheet.

This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of \_\_\_\_\_ sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I  Basis of the report
- II  Priority
- III  Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV  Lack of unity of invention
- V  Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI  Certain documents cited
- VII  Certain defects in the international application
- VIII  Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand <b>15.10.03</b>	Date of completion of this report <b>31.10.03</b>
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/JP <b>Japan Patent Office</b> 3-4-3, Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8915, Japan	Authorized officer <b>YUKIHIRO KIRIHATA</b> Telephone No. +81-3-3581-1101 Ext. 3221
2P 9606	

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.  
PCT/JP 03/ 09929

## I. Basis of the report

## 1. With regard to the elements of the international application:\*

 the international application as originally filed the description:

pages \_\_\_\_\_, as originally filed

pages \_\_\_\_\_, filed with the demand

pages \_\_\_\_\_, filed with the letter of \_\_\_\_\_

 the claims:

Nos. \_\_\_\_\_, as originally filed

Nos. \_\_\_\_\_, as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19

Nos. \_\_\_\_\_, filed with the demand

Nos. \_\_\_\_\_, filed with the letter of \_\_\_\_\_

 the drawings:

sheets/fig \_\_\_\_\_, as originally filed

sheets/fig \_\_\_\_\_, filed with the demand

sheets/fig \_\_\_\_\_, filed with the letter of \_\_\_\_\_

 the sequence listing part of the description:

pages \_\_\_\_\_, as originally filed

pages \_\_\_\_\_, filed with the demand

pages \_\_\_\_\_, filed with the letter of \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language \_\_\_\_\_ which is:

 the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)). the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)). the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3).

## 3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

 contained in the international application in written form. filed together with the international application in computer readable form. furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form. furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form. The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished. The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.4.  The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of: the description, pages \_\_\_\_\_ the claims, Nos. \_\_\_\_\_ the drawings, sheets/fig \_\_\_\_\_5.  This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).\*\*

\* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17).

\*\* Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.  
**PCT/JP03/09929****V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement****1. Statement**

Novelty (N)	Claims	<u>1-49</u>	YES
	Claims	_____	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	<u>1-49</u>	YES
	Claims	_____	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	<u>1-49</u>	YES
	Claims	_____	NO

**2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)**

D1:WO 99/34979 A1(SEIKO EPSON CORPORATION)1999.07.15  
& US 6425656 B1

**Claims 1-49**

D1 is a document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance.